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THE PETITION OF THE House of Commons,

which accompanied

THE

DECLARATION

Of the State of the Kingdome,

when it was presented to his Majestie at *Hampton* Court.

Gr. Brit. -- House of Commons.

LONDON,

Printed in the years 1641.

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To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

Most Gracious Soveraigne,

Our Majesties most humble and faithfull subjects the Commoners in this present Parliament assembled, doe with much thankfulnesse and joy, acknowledge the great mercy and favour of God, in giving your Majesty a safe and peaceable returne out of *Scotland* into your Kingdome of *England*, where the pressing dangers and distempers of the State, have caused us with much earnestnesse to desire the comfort of your gracious Presence, and likewise the Unitie and Justice of your Royall authority to give more life and power to the dutifull and loyall Counsels, and endevours of your Parliament, for the prevention of that eminent ruine and destruction wherein your Kingdomes of *England* and *Scotland* are threatned. The duty which we owe to your Majesty and our Countrey, cannot but make us very sensible and apprehensive, that the multiplicity, sharpenesse, and malignity of those evils under which we have now many yeares suffered, are fomented and cherished by a corrupt and ill affected party, who amongst other their mischievous devices for the alteration of Religion and government, have sought by many

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falſe ſcandals and imputations cunningly inſinuated, and diſperſed amongſt the people, to blemiſh and diſgrace our proceedings in this Parliament, and to get themſelves a party and faction amongſt your Subjects, for the better ſtrengthening of themſelves in their wicked courſes, and hindering thoſe proviſions, and remedies which might by the wiſdome of your Majeſty, and Counſell of your Parliament be oppoſed againſt them.

For preventing whereof, and the better information of your Majeſty, your Peeres, and all other your loyall Subjects, we have beene neceſſitated to make a declaration of the ſtate of the Kingdome, both before and ſince the aſſembly of this Parliament unto this time, which we doe humbly preſent to your Majeſty without the leaſt intention to lay any blemiſh upon your Royall Perſon, but only to repreſent how your Royall Authority and truſt have beene abuſed, to the great prejudice and danger of your Majeſty, and of all your good Subjects.

And becauſe wee have reaſon to beleeve that thoſe malignant partyes whoſe proceedings evidently appeare to be, mainly for the advantage and encreaſe of Popery, is compoſed, ſet up, and acted by the ſubtile practiſe of the Jeſuits, and other Engineers and Factors for *Rome*, and to the great danger of this Kingdome, and moſt grievous affliction of your loyall Subjects, have ſo farre prevailed, as to corrupt divers of your Biſhops, and others in prime places of the Church, and alſo to bring divers of theſe Inſtruments to bee of your Privy Counſell, and other employments of truſt and neereneſſe about your Majeſtie, the Prince, and the reſt of your Royall Children.

And by this meanes hath had ſuch an operation in your Counſell, and the moſt important affaires and proceedings

ceedings of your government, that a moſt dangerous diviſion, and chargeable preparation for warre betwixt your Kingdomes of *England* and *Scotland*, the increaſe of jealouſies betwixt your Majeſty, and your moſt obedient Subjects, the violent diſtraction and interruption of this Parliament, the inſurrection of the Papiſts in your Kingdome of *Ireland*, and bloudy maſſacre of your people have beene not only endevoured and attempted, but in a great meaſure compaſſed and effected.

For preventing the finall accompliſhment whereof your poore Subjects are enforced to engage their perſons and eſtates to the mayntaining of a very expenceſull and dangerous Warre, notwithſtanding they have already ſince the beginning of this Parliament undergone the charge of 1500000. pounds ſterling or thereabouts, For the neceſſary ſupport and ſupply of your Majeſty in theſe preſent and perillous Deſignes. And becauſe all our moſt faithfull endevours, and engagements will be ineffectuall for the peace, ſafety, and preſervation of your Maieſty and your people, if ſome preſent, reall and effectuall courſe be not taken for ſuppreſſing this wicked and malignant party,

We your moſt humble and obedient Subjects doe with all faithfulneſſe and humility beſeech your Majeſty,

1 *That you will be graciouſly pleaſed to concurre with the humble deſires of your people in a Parliamentary way, for the preſerving the peace and ſafetie of the Kingdome from the malicious deſignes of the Popiſh party.*

For depriving the Biſhops of their Votes in Parliament, and abridging their immoderate power uſurped over the Clergy, and other your good Subjects which they have moſt pernitiouſly abuſed

the hazard of Religion, and great preiudice and oppression of the Lawes of the Kingdome, and just liberty of your people.

For the taking away such oppressions in Religion, Church-government, and Discipline, as have been brought in and fomented by them.

For uniting all such your loyall Subjects together, as joyne in the same fundamentall truths against the Papists, by removing some oppressions and unnecessary Ceremonies, by which divers weak Consciences have been scrupled, and seeme to be divided from the rest, for the due execution of those good Laws which have been made for securing the liberty of your Subjects.

2 *That your Majesty will likewise be pleased to remove from your Counsell all such as persist to favour, and promote any of those pressures and corruptions wherewith your people have beene grieved, and that for the future your Majesty will vouchsafe to employ such persons in your great and publike affaires, and to take such to be neer you in places of trust, as your Parliament may have cause to confide in, that in your Princely goodnesse to your people, you will reject and refuse all mediation and sollicitation to the contrary, how powerfull and neere soever.*

3 *That you will be pleased to forbeare to alienate any of the forfeited and escheated Lands in* Ireland, *which shall accrue to your Crowne, by reason of this Rebellion, that out of them the Crowne may be the better supported, and some satisfaction made to your Subjects of this Kingdome, for the great expences they are like to undergoe in this warre.*

Which humble desires of ours being graciously fulfilled

filled by your Majeſty, we will by the bleſsing and favour of God moſt cheerfully undergoe the hazard and expences of this warre, and apply our ſelves to ſuch other courſes and counſels as may ſupport your Royall eſtate with honour and plenty at home, with power and reputation abroad, and by our loyall affections, obedience, and ſervice, lay a ſure and laſting foundation of the greatneſſe and proſperity of your Majeſty, and your Royall poſteritie in future times.

FINIS.